

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Commission Seeks Comment on Emergency)	GN Docket No. 12-91
Communications by Amateur Radio and)	
Impediments to Amateur Radio)	
Communications)	
)	
)	

To the Commission:

Sixth Set of Comments from Nickolaus E. Leggett, N3NL

The following is my sixth set of comments in this docket. These are additional responses to a specific question from the Commission. Consequences of antenna prohibitions are discussed.

What if Antenna Prohibitions had been applied in the 1920s and 1930s?

This discussion relates to the Commission’s question: “Specifically, do these restrictions affect the amateur radio community’s ability to respond to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States?”

It would be useful to have a historical study that considers the impact of an establishment of antenna prohibitions in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s and after. Would these antenna prohibitions have impacted emergency situations such as the eventual conduct of World War 2 and the Cold War? For example, would there have been a reduced set of skilled radio operators available to the military forces? Would there have been fewer radio engineers for the war effort? Would significant radio inventions that we take for granted not be invented because of the inhibiting influence of the widespread antenna prohibitions. Would the negative impact have been strong enough that the course of these conflicts would have been different?

It is very difficult to conduct such a study in a rigorous and academically satisfying manner. However, it is worthwhile to consider such sequences of consequences. For example, a major pioneer of radio astronomy, Mr. Grote Reber, set up a big dish antenna in his backyard during the 1930s. His antenna would be banned by today's home owner associations or local governments. The early pioneers in many fields would have been blocked if they tried their pioneering work today.

In our brave new 21st Century one must hide one's interest in technology. Technology experimentation is acceptable if it is hidden out of sight in a windowless basement. But don't let any of your technology be visible or audible to your neighbors. If this approach had been applied from the 1920s onward, America's position in the World might have become weaker than it actually was.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickolaus E. Leggett, N3NL

Amateur Radio Extra Class Operator

General Radio Telephone Operator Licensee with Ship Radar Endorsement

ISCET and iNARTE certified electronics technician

Inventor: U.S. Patents 3,280,929 3,280,930 6,771,935

MA in Political Science (The Johns Hopkins University 1970)

**1432 Northgate Square, #2A
Reston, VA 20190-3748
(703) 709-0752**

May 16, 2012